

# *The Ripline*



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Newsletter of the BRISTOL UNIVERSITY HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY  
in association with the U.W.F HOT AIR BALLOONING SOCIETY

Happy New year to all, its downhill to summer (apparently!) although the weather in the first couple of weeks of term has been very wet and windy, so the balloon's been grounded.. Lets hope spring arrives soon!

Not a great response to the T-shirt design appeal, however the committee are investigating the possibility of getting some fleeces or 'hoodies' made as an alternative. This is still in the early stages of planning, but feel free to drop us an e-mail if you might be interested or have some suggestions for a logo or designs. The committee e-mail address is:



The Christmas party last term was a great night, involving much mulled wine, a change of hair colour for Lee and a remote controlled mini airship. Details of upcoming socials are below and have been circulated by e-mail!

Ellie Fearon ( ) and Hugo Williams ( )

## **Upcoming Socials!**

A few words from Vicky:

**The (infamous) BUHABS Curry night! - Thursday 7th February.**

"An enjoyable meal at a quality establishment with great company, what more can you ask for?! The more the merrier but please email me if you are interested so that I can gauge no's and book a table"

**Ballooning Evening - the Union on Wednesday 20th February.**

"An evening of ballooning, with slides, Q&A, etc. for those of you who may not have had the chance to fly with us yet it is a great chance to find out what it's all about, bring your friends! For those of you who have, it's still fun and you will learn lots of interesting things about ballooning."

*Of course, both of these will be followed by a few drinks afterwards! Final details will follow by e-mail!*

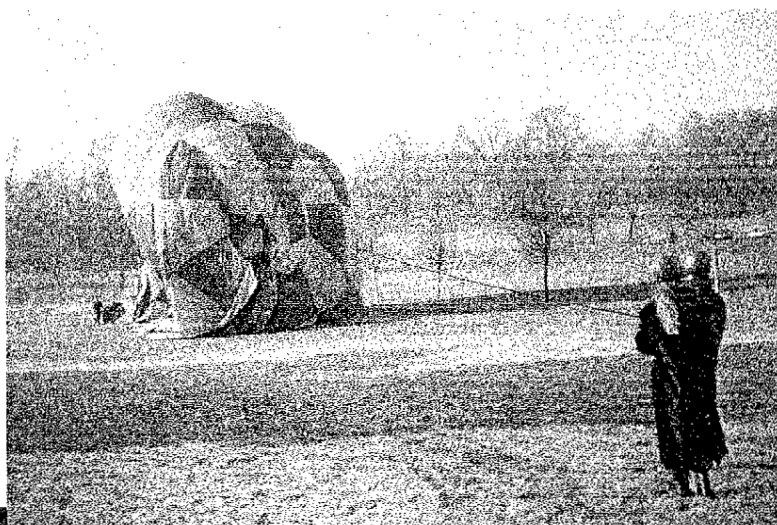


## Flying before xmas.

Another cold and frosty morning on Saturday 8th December saw BUHABS flying from the Bath railway field. The morning flight was beautiful with sun glinting off the frost and a light wind. Simon landed at Keynsham Rugby club, and after breakfast the balloon was refuelled for the afternoon flight, again from Bath. Tim landed at Saltford (another Rugby club, just as the players ran out!) as the wind picked up.

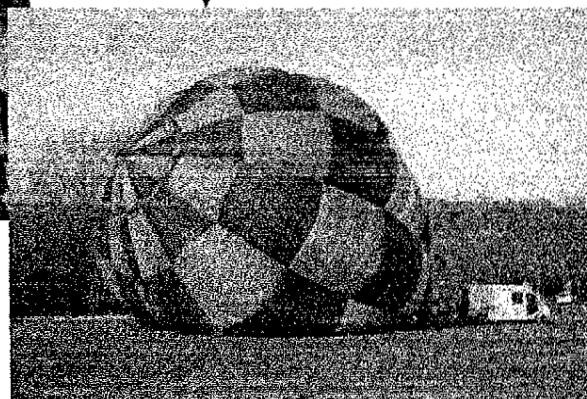
### Pictures from the BUHABS Gallery!

Thought we'd treat you to a few good photos from the BUHABS archives, a huge selection of photos are available on our website, they're well worth a look!



↑  
Deflating BUHABS 5 after a flight early last year.

↓  
Inflating under a cloudless sky, lovely.



After a long and intimate search, Tim finally reveals that he has had the Ripline in his hand all along.  
*Any better caption suggestions? Mail me! (Ellie)*

## Weather!

Weather is extremely important to balloon flying, governing when, if and where we fly. Below is an extract from a past article of Tim's, explaining why certain weather is bad news for balloons!

### Wind

*If the wind is forecast to be over 10 knots on the surface we won't fly. The air needs to be fairly still to inflate the balloon and also to land it without requiring a landing strip! Sometimes there is an inversion layer of cold, still air on the ground and up to several hundred feet in the mornings and this can allow us to fly even if it's windy at 2000 ft.*

### Clouds

*Certain cloud types are associated with weather that is unsuitable for flying, like cumulus clouds during the middle of summer days that indicate rising thermals. The height of the cloud base and the amount of coverage are also important, especially when flying in congested airspace.*

### Thunder clouds

*Thunder clouds suck—quite literally. Not wanting to get sucked in, we stay firmly on the ground.*

### Mist and Fog

*Normally only a problem on morning flights. There is a minimum visibility we need for take off legally, but it often clears for take off. Normally.*

### Rain

*You get wet....you take off....the van gets stuck in the mud.... you get wet.... you land in the mud....you get muddy... ....[ then the van gets stuck again—Ed.] .... Our very expensive balloon gets muddy... .. Lovely.*

It's not all bad news though—You can't beat a clear and calm morning with the sun glinting on the houses and fields below!

## Flying and sign up procedure.

Every Thursday lunchtime you'll find one or more of the BUHABS pilots down at the White Bear public house with the sign up lists. With spring on its way the weather should be improving, and some launch sites which were unavailable due to foot and mouth should be open again. Good news all round! Happy flying!

## **Balloon lifts city's cultural status**

BBC News online - Jan 2002

Bristol hosts the International Balloon Fiesta and a balloon specially designed to promote Bristol as "European Capital of Culture 2008" is nearing completion at a factory in the city.

The £45,000 balloon will feature silhouettes of the city's landmarks.

Forty-metre sections of fabric used to create the balloon are being stitched together at Cameron Balloons, a factory at Bedminster, Bristol.

Nicky Rylance, one of the members of a team trying to promote Bristol's bid, said: "It is most appropriate that a balloon celebrating our city is produced to support the Bristol 2008 bid.

"Balloons are one of the many things that are putting Bristol on the world map."



The balloon will create a highly-visible symbol of the city at events throughout the UK and in Europe.

It is hoped that work on the canopy will be complete by mid-January.

Images displayed on the fabric will include the Clifton Suspension Bridge; the interactive educational centre @Bristol; Concorde, which was built and had its test flight in the city; and Pero's bridge, which acknowledges the city's role in slavery.

Mr Rylance added: "The world's most advanced balloons are produced in Bristol and we host the spectacular International Balloon Fiesta, which is one of the world's most successful free festivals."

The Bristol-based Cameron plant has designed and built balloons attempting to beat round-the-world records.

Bristol is one of 12 UK cities competing to become City of Culture.